

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2001-280229

(43)Date of publication of application : 10.10.2001

(51)Int.Cl.

F02P 17/12
 F02B 23/08
 F02B 23/10
 F02B 31/00
 F02D 41/34
 F02D 43/00
 F02D 45/00
 F02P 3/045
 F02P 5/15
 F02P 9/00
 F02P 15/10

(21)Application number : 2000-281102

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(22)Date of filing : 18.09.2000

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(30)Priority

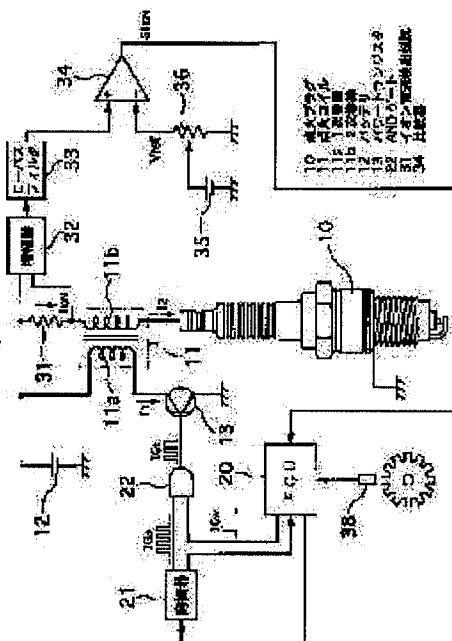
Priority number : 11299463
2000015910Priority date : 21.10.1999
25.01.2000Priority country : JP
JP

(54) SPARK IGNITION DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To ensure ignition of a fuel supplied into a combustion chamber in an internal combustion engine while restricting discharge energy to be supplied to a spark plug.

SOLUTION: Discharge energy is supplied to the spark plug 10 several times during one combustion cycle. If a flame is formed due to the generation of discharge spark in a spark gap of the spark plug 10 at a discharge stop timing when the discharge energy is not supplied, abundant combustion ions exist. Then, a current flows from a battery 12 via an ion current detecting resistance 31 to the spark plug 10, resulting in an ion current signal to be output from a comparator 34. If the ion current signal is detected, the fuel is defined to be ignited to cause the stop of a high voltage at the side of a secondary winding 11b of a spark coil 11. Therefore, in the expansion stroke of the internal combustion engine, ignition of the fuel supplied into the combustion chamber in the internal combustion engine is ensured, while restricting discharge energy to be supplied to the spark plug 10.



LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the

examiner's decision of rejection or application
converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of
rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision
of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]